

2. Mr. James Naughton, of the Intergovernmental Operations Subcommittee of the House Committee on Government Operations, called me several days ago wanting to know whether CIA could furnish information, or corroborate information in Committee hands, as to the cargo and destinations of certain ships which left U. S. ports and went to Soviet or Satellite ports via Buenos Aires and Rotterdam. At [] suggestion, I contacted

25X1 [] of ORR, and he advised me that there was very little in the way of information that we could provide and that Mr. Naughton should be advised accordingly. I did so advise Mr. Naughton, but agreed at his request to go up and let him try to give a clearer picture than he had been able to give me over the phone concerning the specific information desired by the Committee.

25X1 [] of ORR and I visited Mr. Naughton and a Mr. Francis McLaughlin of the Committee staff today. After hearing some detail as to the nature of the information requested, [] explained that the material desired by the Committee was largely available in published documents of one kind or another, and he agreed to furnish the staff with a list of certain published documents which might be helpful to them. It subsequently appeared that the Committee staff has been trying to get information from various Government agencies on the cargo and destination of a list of ships, including ONI, over a period of weeks and that they have had no particular success in getting this information. It became clear during our conversation that the Committee staff was approaching CIA as a last resort to get information they had previously been unable to obtain from other agencies. [] informed

25X1 the staff that ONI was the proper agency to handle a request of the type they had made, and indicated that we had no special facilities for obtaining information of this sort. I indicated that we were in no position to try to dissuade the Chairman of the Subcommittee from making a request to this or any other agency, but I gave the staff no reason to assume that anything productive would result. The Director will presumably receive a letter from Chairman Fountain of the Committee in the near future. (cc []